

Description.—A shrub or small tree with thick soft branches. Leaves long petiolate, deeply divided in 5-11 lanceolate-acutè, linear or elliptic-acute lobes, the lobes often again lobed, green above, often pale-pink below, green at maturity. Stipules short, subulate, branched. Petioles a foot long or more, smooth and glabrous.

Inflorescence a many-flowered, long-pedunculate, terminal cyme, branches slender, reddish in colour. Male and female flowers on the same plant. Calyx gamosepalous, shortly 5-lobed; lobes short, rounded at the tips. Petals five, oblong or broader above, rounded at the tips, red or purplish, .2 in. long. Stamens 8-10; filaments connate for a short distance; anthers linear. Disk cup-shaped; glands prominent. Ovary seated on the disk, three-celled. Fruit a capsule, obovate in shape, smooth, yellowish, about 1 in. long.

Flowers and Fruits.—Chiefly during the rains.

Native country.—Native of South America, commonly cultivated in gardens throughout India.

Gardening.—A handsome garden plant with rather pretty foliage and coral red flowers. Propagated by seed.

Economic and Medicinal uses.—The leaves are said to be cooked in Mexico as a vegetable. The yellow sap is used in Brazil for the treatment of wounds, and the roasted seeds for fevers and venereal diseases. The seeds are purgative like those of many other species.

(To be continued)

MATERIALS FOR THE ORNITHOLOGY OF AFGHANISTAN.

BY

HUGH WHISTLER (Deceased).

PART I

The starting point of this note on the Birds of Afghanistan is to be found in a collection of about 250 birds made in Afghanistan for the British Museum by Sir Richard Maconachie during part of his tenure of the responsible post of British Minister in Kabul. Sir Richard Maconachie is not and does not claim to be an ornithologist. He was, however, on leave in England in 1932 and hearing of his presence in London Mr. N. B. Kinnear and myself asked him if he could do anything to procure a series of birds from Afghanistan for the British Museum. We had long had our eyes on that country and thought of various expedients for throwing some fresh light on the ornithology of an interesting area so close to India and Baluchistan. Sir Richard was very sympathetic to our aspirations and he was finally kind enough to agree that if some arrangement could be made for a skinner he would do his best to procure a representative series of birds for the British Museum. A skinner was in due course trained and provided, largely through the good offices of Mr. H. W. Waite, Indian Police, a keen student of Punjab ornithology, and to cut a long story short some 250 birds were collected in Afghanistan in 1933 and 1934, mostly from the neighbourhood of Kabul, though the official visits of members of the minister's staff to other parts of the country added some interesting species to the list.

The British Museum entrusted the identification of this collection to myself and kindly asked me to write a note on it for publication. I have therefore seized the opportunity to make this note as comprehensive as possible by including in it the scattered information available on the subject of the Birds of Afghanistan in the hope that it may be useful to other workers to have a convenient summary of the present state of our knowledge and in the still greater hope that this paper may inspire some of the various western officials now resident in Afghanistan to profit by their opportunities and study the birds of the country in earnest. Afghanistan has hitherto shared with Turkestan the fate of being a kind of ornithological waste paper basket for Continental Asia. These two countries have been added almost automatically to the distribution of any species whose range, habitat or breeding quarters have been imperfectly known and this tendency has naturally confused rather than improved our knowledge. I hope in the following papers not to write any full account of the birds of Afghanistan—that is impossible in the present state of our knowledge—but at least to indicate what species are known to occur in the country and what information is available as to their distribution and status. It will then be incumbent on any future writer to disclose the source of his statements if he desires to be taken seriously in using Afghanistan to cover the deficiencies in our knowledge of any species.

There is no need to describe Afghanistan here. The main features of the country can be obtained from any Encyclopaedia and I cannot amplify them. In view of the fact, however, that the boundaries of the country have, especially in the South-east, been varied since the earlier papers, hereinafter listed, were written, I should like to make it clear that I have followed the present political boundaries of the country, the more particularly because records from places like Chaman, spoken of by earlier writers as being in South Afghanistan, have already been summarised by Dr. C. B. Ticehurst in his excellent paper on British Baluchistan (*Journal Bombay N. H. Society*, 1926-27). I have, however, allowed myself some latitude over the localities round the Hamun-i-Helmund, partly because I have failed to find whether some of them are on the Persian or Afghan side of the border and partly because in dealing with a drainage basin of this type one may be satisfied that a record from one side of the boundary is illustrative of the area generally.

This paper has undergone many vicissitudes. It was nearly ready for the press when I learnt that Colonel Meinertzhagen was proceeding to Afghanistan and I delayed it to include a summary of the results of his expedition which were exceedingly valuable. The paper was then redrafted but held up again on the news that Mr. J. L. Chaworth Musters was going to collect mammals for the British Museum in Afghanistan and would also collect birds. Mr. Musters returned about the beginning of the War and it then transpired that he had brought no birds from Afghanistan and the delay had been unnecessary.

The Battle of Britain and the consequent evacuation of much of the collections in the British Museum have prevented my examining critically a number of specimens listed hereafter or necessary to elucidate various points: in spite of this and because further col-

lecting in Afghanistan must necessarily now remain in abeyance for an unknown period I have thought it better to publish the paper as it stands. It will then be ready, when peace comes once again and men have leisure for scientific work, to furnish a resumé of our existing knowledge and a starting point from which some future ornithologist can write a proper account of the Birds of Afghanistan.

In conclusion my thanks are due to Dr. Bains Prashad of the Indian Museum for the willing help he has given me by turning up and furnishing information on a number of Afghan specimens in the Calcutta Museum. Mr. N. B. Kinnear was not only behind the original inspiration of Sir Richard Maconachie's collection on which this paper was primarily based. He has in addition provided me with much information about the various officers who made the early collections in Afghanistan and given me much other help in the preparation of the paper. For all of this I am under a great debt of gratitude to him.

Before proceeding to enumerate the species of birds known to occur in Afghanistan and the information available about each of them, I have thought it desirable to give a list of the various books and papers which I have been able to consult for the purposes of this compilation. These papers are somewhat numerous but a careful examination of them will show that what information there is comes largely from the borders of Afghanistan. Little or nothing is known of the birds of the heart of the country or of the greater part of the Hindu Kush and its associated ranges, an area which must prove of the utmost interest. This literature is as follows, arranged in chronological order with some notes on the contents of the different items.

1843. VIGNE, G. T.—A Personal Narrative of a visit to Ghuzni, Kabul and Afghanistan and of a residence at the Court of Dost Mahomed with notices of Runjit Sing, Khiva and the Russian Expedition (London, Routledge).

[P. 136 contains an account of the 'Churk Falcon' commented on by Blyth in his notes to Hutton's paper].

1847. HUTTON, CAPTAIN THOMAS.—Rough Notes on the Ornithology of Candahar and its neighbourhood [with some additional information on the Birds of Afghanistan—by E. BLYTH, Curator of the Asiatic Society etc., etc.] *Journal Asiatic Soc. Bengal*, 1847, vol. xvi, pp. 775-794.

[Captain Hutton was originally in British service but during the First Afghan War saw service in the 'Pay and Commissariat Department of Shah Soojah's force'. His heavy duties prevented his making many observations, for he was 'generally at the desk from sunrise to sunset', but he succeeded in producing a useful list of 128 species. To this Blyth added some notes and described *Athene bactriana* as new. In an earlier number of the *Journal* Blyth had already described *Malacocercus huttoni*, *Carpodacus crassirostris* and *Melanocorypha torquata*.

Here reference may be made to Sir Alexander Burns whose drawings are mentioned in this paper by Blyth. SIR ALEXANDER BURNS, the brilliant traveller and political officer, was deputed in 1836 to proceed with Dr. Lord to Kabul, as Commercial Agent. While there he employed a native artist to make drawings of birds.

Some time previous to 1840 the drawings, together with notes by Dr. Lord, were presented by Government to the Asiatic Society of Bengal. The drawings were very crude and notes of little value, but nevertheless the Council of the Society decided to publish them and arrangements were made for the drawings to be lithographed.

In the meantime Edward Blyth had arrived in Calcutta to take up the post of Curator of the Society's Museum, and the notes were handed to him to prepare for publication. He, realising that the publication of the drawings and notes would only bring the Society into disrepute, apparently did nothing. The Secretary brought the matter before the Council and a stormy correspondence ensued which, however, came to an end by the death of the lithographer and the financial difficulties of the Society. The work was never published, but a few copies of the plates were bound, one of which is in the Linnaean Society. Blyth, in his notes on Captain Hutton's papers, refers to the species figured and also a small number of skins presented by Burns to the Society's Museum.]

1854. HORSFIELD, THOMAS and MOORE, FREDERIC.—A Catalogue of the Birds in the Museum of the Hon. East India Company. Two volumes (London, W. H. Allen).

[This is important for the information it contains about the Griffith collection.

WILLIAM GRIFFITH was a young doctor in the service of the Honorable East India Coy. and in addition to his medical qualifications was an excellent botanist. In this latter capacity the Company had employed him on two occasions and, shortly after his return in June 1838 from Bhutan, where he had accompanied the mission of Capt. Pemberton as medical officer and botanist, he was ordered to join the army of the Indus, then preparing to invade Afghanistan. His instructions were to accompany the army and report on the natural products of the country. From Calcutta he travelled via Cawnpore to Loodhiana, where he arrived on 10th December 1838. He immediately commenced collecting, not limiting his activities to plants, but including mammals, birds and fishes as well. On his way down the Indus he shot at Shikarpur the types of *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides* Horsf. & Moore, and *Dryobates scindeanus* Horsf. & Moore. Leaving the river he marched with the army through the Bolan Pass to Quetta, and on to Kandahar, thence to Ghuznee,—was present at the battle on 23rd July—and finally reached Kabul on 12th August 1839.

Twelve days later Griffith joined a small force which was proceeding to Bamian via the Hajigak Pass. At 'Topekee' 12,000 ft. twelve miles from Bamian, he shot a 'Chukor' Ptarmigan' *Tetrao-gallus h. himalayensis* and also reports Chukar (*Alectoris*), See-see (*Ammoderdix*), and Rock Nuthatches (*Sitta*) seen on the way. From Bamian the force marched south to the upper waters of the Helmund river and then returned to Kabul. Leaving again early in October Griffith travelled via Jagdalak, Futtehabad, Sultanpore and the Khyber Pass to Peshawar, arriving there on 7th November.

Anxious to visit other parts of the country Griffith obtained permission to accompany a column which was leaving Jalalabad for Kunar, on the Kunar river, a tributary of the Kabul river. Kunar was reached on 15th January 1840, and next day an attack was

made on a hostile fort, but owing to the heavy rains damping the gunpowder it was unsuccessful. Three days later the fort was evacuated and by 16th February the country was considered quiet and the troops returned to Jalalabad. Griffith, however, remained behind with Capt. Macgregor, and after some time at Pashat he went with that officer on 2nd March to 'Chugar Serai' (Chaghan Serai). Through Capt. Macgregor's influence he remained there alone with his servant until the end of April, when, owing to disturbances, he had to return to Jalalabad. While at Chaghan Serai he visited Otipore and Bharowl, on the borders of Kafiristan. At Pashat he obtained the type of *Ruticilla rufogularis* Moore (= *Phoenicurus erythronotus erythronotus*) and at Bharowl *Orites leucogenys* Moore (= *Aegithaliscus leucogenys*). At the last named locality a female Monal was brought in to him and along with it the first known example of *Pucrasia macrolophus castaneus* Gould.

During his stay in the valley Griffith records the arrival of many migrants, but owing to his limited knowledge it is not always possible to identify all the species. On reaching Jalalabad Griffith had a bad attack of fever and was laid up for several weeks. Later he was sent to Kabul to recoup and from there set out to join Lieut. Surly, who was surveying on the Turkestan frontier, but again owing to disturbances he had to return without getting further than 'Kurzar', north of the Bamian river. Returning to Kabul on 23rd September 1840 he proceeded to Peshawar and finally left Afghanistan.

Griffith had no pretensions to be an ornithologist, but nevertheless acquired some knowledge of birds and kept notes of all he saw. Owing to his limited amount of baggage he made all his skins flat and notwithstanding all his journeys and the wet weather they are still in fair condition in the British Museum. While in Afghanistan he collected 350 specimens of birds, 150 skins of fish—his spirit specimens got destroyed—and 1,500 species of plants, including a great number of duplicates, and travelled 1,600 miles.

The bird collection did not reach the East India Coy.'s Museum till 1843, and unfortunately was first examined by Dr. William Jamieson in India, who appears to have mixed some of Griffith's Khasia Hills specimens with the Afghan collection. The specimens were labelled with large pieces of country paper, but many of the original labels are now lost, and on some the locality is very vague. This probably accounts for the bad mistakes made by Moore in the Indian Museum Catalogue, in which a number of Khasia Hills birds are attributed to Afghanistan and in two cases, at least, he attributed new species to the wrong locality.]

1879. WARDLAW-RAMSAY, R. G.—Ornithological Notes from Afghanistan. Paper I, *Ibis*, 1879, pp. 444-9.

1880. WARDLAW-RAMSAY, R. G.—Ornithological Notes from Afghanistan. Paper II. On the birds of the Hariab District, *Ibis*, 1880, pp. 45-71.

[Both papers refer to the same period and locality, the Hariab Valley and the Peiwar Spur of the Sufed Koh above it where Wardlaw-Ramsay arrived on 18th April 1879 during the course of the Second Afghan War. He made careful notes and collected a number of specimens now in the British Museum but he left un-

expectedly for England on 10th July '80 so the paper only covers a period of about three months.]

1882. SWINHOE, LIEUT.-COLONEL C.—On the Birds of Southern Afghanistan. *Ibis*, 1882, pp. 95-126.

[Refers to the neighbourhood of Kandahar where Swinhoe arrived on 6th Oct. 1880. He left again apparently on 22nd April 1881. He made a collection of birds which are now in the British Museum.]

1887. MURRAY, J. A.—Zoology of Baluchistan and Afghanistan. *Indian Annals and Magazine of Natural Science*, vol. I, nos. 1-3.

n. d. MURRAY, J. A.—The Zoology of Beloochistan and Southern Afghanistan (Bombay Education Society's Press).

[These two books are very scarce and difficult to consult. The latter is undated and I have not been able to ascertain the date of publication, but it apparently appeared not long after the paper in the *Indian Annals and Magazine*. Murray lists a number of specimens as obtained in various localities between Quetta and Kandahar by a Mr. C. F. Hutchins but I have thought it better not to include these. Some appear very improbable and Murray's work is not always reliable.]

1887. SCULLY, J.—On the Mammals and Birds collected by Captain C. E. Yate, c.s.i. of the Afghan Boundary Commission. *Journal Asiatic Soc. Bengal*, 1887, vol. lvii, pt. ii, no. i. pp. 77-89.

[A collection of 110 species was made by Capt. Yate after the departure of Dr. Aitcheson (vide next title but one). I believe that these birds are in the Indian Museum, Calcutta].

1888, YATE, MAJOR C. E.—Northern Afghanistan or Letters from the Afghan Boundary Commission (London, William Black-wood).

[A descriptive account of the travels of the Mission, whose birds are described in the preceding and following items.]

1889, SHARPE, R. BOWDLER.—The Zoology of the Afghan Delimitation Commission. Transactions of the Linnaean Society of London, Second series, vol. v, Zoology, Birds, pp. 66-93. (Plates VI, VII and 2 maps).

[Dr. J. E. T. Aitcheson was attached as Naturalist to the Afghan Delimitation Commission of 1884-1885 and in that capacity made collections in all branches of Natural History. These included 123 species of birds and *Gecinus gorii* Hargitt, *Passer yatei* Sharpe and *Phasianus principalis* Sclater were described as new and figured in colours. Much of the collecting was done by Lieut. Rawlins and Capt. C. E. Yate. The Commission left Quetta on 21st Sept. 1884 and travelled via Nushki and Rudbar to the Hamun-i-Helmund. From there their route led by Zagin and Zindijan to Khusan (18-25 Nov.) on the Hari-Rud. They then crossed the Paropamisus Range and halted at Kalla-Bala Morghab from 14th Dec. 1884 to 15th Feb. 1885, returning via the Khusk River to Gulran and Tirphul (4th April). After this the Commission was largely in Persian territory. The specimens are in the British Museum.]

1889.—ST. JOHN, LT.-COL. Sir O.B.—On the Birds of Southern Afghanistan and Kelat. *Ibis*, 1889, pp. 145-180.

[Colonel St. John went to Afghanistan in October 1878 and served there through the Second Afghan War, leaving apparently in April 1881. He was provided by Hume with a Skinner and made a good collection of birds which are now in the Hume Collection in

the British Museum. The majority were obtained at Kandahar but the area covered extended to Khelat-i-Ghilzai on the north-east and to the Helmund at Girishk on the west.]

1891, SHARPE, R. B. Scientific Results of the Second Yarkand Mission; based upon the collections and notes of the late Ferdinand Stoliczka, Ph.D., Aves. (London, Taylor and Francis).

[Includes a list of various birds collected by Biddulph and Stoliczka in April 1874 in that portion of Afghan Turkestan known as Wakhan and herein listed under Biddulph's name.]

1896, FINN, FRANK.—List of the Birds collected by the Afghan-Baluch Boundary Commission of 1896. *Journal Asiatic Soc. Bengal* 1896, vol. lxxv, pp. 566-7.

[A nominal list of a small collection of skins brought back by Dr. F. P. Maynard. Most of the birds were shot by Lieut. F. C. Webb-Ware, 7th Bengal Lancers, round about Sahib Zada Kili a village at the northern end of Shorawuk in Afghan territory. These specimens, some 60 in number, are in the Indian Museum, Calcutta and Dr. Baini Prashad has kindly furnished me with their date.]

1905, CUMMING, J. W. NICOL.—Birds of Seistan, being a list of the birds shot or seen in Seistan by members of the Seistan Arbitration Mission 1904-5. *Journal Bombay Nat. Hist. Society*, vol. xvi, pp. 686-99.

[A small collection of 106 specimens was made by the members of the Arbitration Commission in Seistan and deposited in the Indian Museum, Calcutta.]

1909, WHITEHEAD, LIEUT. C. H. T.—On the Birds of Kohat and Kurram, Northern India. With an introduction by MAJOR H. A. F. MAGRATH. *Ibis* 1909, pp. 90-134, pp. 214-84, pp. 620-23. Reprinted with corrections in *Journal Bombay Natural History Society*, vol. xx, pp. 169-97, pp. 776-99, pp. 954-80.

[Contains much useful information on the Birds of the Sufed Koh which Mr. Whitehead visited in June and July 1906 and again, in company with Major Magrath, in April 1907. Although strictly speaking these officers were not in Afghanistan they were on the border and their observations must illustrate the neighbouring country.]

1919, BAKER, E. C. STUART.—Notes on two collections of Birds from Seistan. *Records of the Indian Museum*, vol. xviii, pt. ii, 1919, pp. 121-34.

[Mr. Stuart Baker reports on two collections from Seistan, amounting to 137 specimens of 79 species, in the Indian Museum, Calcutta. The first collection is that made in 1903-1905 by the Seistan Arbitration Commission (as above). The second containing only 31 specimens was made by Dr. N. Annandale and Mr. S. W. Kemp in December 1918. These are listed in this paper under Dr. Annandale's name.]

1938, MEINERTZHAGEN, COLONEL R.—On the Birds of Northern Afghanistan. *Ibis* 1938, pp. 480-520 and pp. 671-716.

[Colonel Meinertzhagen, accompanied by Mr. Sálím A. Ali entered Afghanistan by the Khyber Pass on 2 April 1937. He travelled via Jalalabad and Kabul to the Unai and Shibar Passes and northwards to Afghan Turkestan and the Oxus Valley by Haibak and Kunduz, returning by much the same route. He reached

India through the Khyber Pass on 1 June. A large and valuable collection of birds, with excellent field notes, was made and the writer finally visited Leningrad in order to complete the working out of the collection properly].

1939, KOELZ, WALTER.—New Birds from Asia, chiefly from India. *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington*, vol. lli, pp. 61-82 (June 5, 1939).

[Seventeen new sub-species are described from Afghanistan as the result of collections made in that country by W. Koelz in 1937. If the Indian sub-species described in this paper and what I have seen of Afghan birds from other sources are any guide few only of these new sub-species will stand. It may be inferred from these descriptions that Koelz visited many localities not previously known to any ornithologist and that he made a large collection but nothing else has been published and the war has prevented learning more about it].

Corvus corax lawrencei Hume.

Specimens collected.—♂ ♀ 10 Feb., ♂ ♀ 2 April, ♂ 5 April, ♂ 12 Sept. 1879 Kandahar, ♀ 3 October, ♂ 19 October 1879 Khelat-i-Ghilzai (St. John); ♀ 8 December 1880, ♀ 22 January 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); 153 ♀ 23-1-34 Logar (Maconachie); 2 ♂ April Bamian, ♂ ♀ April Ghorband, ♀ April 1937 Doab (Meinertzhagen).

In Northern Afghanistan Meinertzhagen found that the Raven was not abundant anywhere but it was met in pairs or singly almost everywhere, from the Western entrance to the Khyber Pass to Jalalabad and Kabul, high up in the mountain snows at Bamian and down in the hot plains of the Oxus river. Griffith mentions the Raven frequently in his journal in different localities. It is also common in Southern Afghanistan at Khelat-i-Ghilzai and Kandahar. In South-west Afghanistan Cumming records that he saw three at Kuhak on 25 September 1904 and a pair near Hurmal on 18 May 1905, so it would seem to be scarcer in this area.

Swinhoe and St. John were both under the impression that there were two forms of Raven in South Afghanistan, both apparently much the same in numbers and that probably they had a different status. These birds they called *corax* and *umbrinus*. The ten specimen's they collected are in the British Museum and Mr. Kinnear and I after examining them carefully have come to the conclusion that all must belong to one form and that *lawrencei*. It is quite possible that *umbrinus=ruficollis* does occur in Afghanistan. It has been recorded from both Sind and Baluchistan. But I cannot help feeling that Swinhoe and St. John were deceived by immature and worn birds (6 of these 10 specimens are immature) of *lawrencei* which are admittedly easy to confuse with *ruficollis*, and this explains their varying conclusions as to the status of the two supposed species in Afghanistan. There are no doubt local movements but the Raven is probably resident in Afghanistan.

Meinertzhagen calls his Afghan birds *subcorax* Severtzow (*Jevotnik*, p. 63, 115) regarding *lawrencei* Hume (*Lahore to Yarkand*, p. 235) as a synonym. If Turkestan and Northwest Indian birds are indeed identical, *subcorax* is the older name as Severtzow says (*S. F.* iii, 423) that it was published in December 1872, whereas Hume's *Lahore to Yarkand* was published in 1873. I have not been able to examine Turkestan birds, but they are usually considered to be *C. corax tibetanus*, and it seems undesirable to disturb a well-established name without more definite proof.

Corvus corone orientalis Eversmann.

Specimens collected.—4 ♂ 1 ♀ May 1937 Haibak (Meinertzhagen). Meinertzhagen found the Carrion Crow common and breeding at Haibak and Kunduz in Afghan Turkestan, and he collected a small series at the former place. On the Seistan border, on the other hand, Cumming found it a common bird in winter, found frequently near houses. As he states that he shot a specimen on 20 March 1905 his record may perhaps be accepted though not everyone is able to separate the Carrion and Jungle Crows.

Crows of sorts were seen singly and in pairs by Meinertzhagen in the

Upper Kabul Valley near the Unai Pass in late May, at Danaghori and Doab in early May and at Bamian in late April but their identity could not be established. One would expect the Carrion Crow to occur also along the base of the Safed Koh as Whitehead found it breeding on the other side of the range and boundary in the Upper Kurram Valley from 5,000 ft. upwards.

Corvus macrohynchus intermedius Adams.

Specimens collected.—Sex? Pushut, ♀ Afghanistan (Griffith).

Wardlaw-Ramsey says that the Jungle Crow was the only crow observed in the Hariab Valley where it was very abundant. He found it breeding in the pines at Byan Khel 7,000 ft. in May. Whitehead also says that it breeds very freely on the Safed Koh.

This is, I suspect, the Carrion Crow of Griffith's Journal in which he says many were resorting to the camp at Pushut (23 Feb. 1840) but were very wild from being continuously fired at with matchlocks. At Pushut too (31 March 1840) he remarks on the birds' behaviour on inundated ground and he mentions it again at Bharowl on 7 March 1840. His two specimens, at any rate are Jungle Crows.

This species is doubtless confined to those parts of Afghanistan which are largely Himalayan in the character of their fauna.

Corvus frugilegus frugilegus Linnaeus.

Specimens collected.—2 Sex? 16 January and 16 April 1840 Pushut (Griffith); 2 ♂ 2 ♀ 17-23 January 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); 2 ♂ 1 ♀ 1881 Abdul Rahman (C. F. Hutchins); ♂ ♀ 1-9 January 1885 Bala Murghab (Aitcheson); 2 sex? 19-23 March Maruchak, Murghab (Yate); ♀ 13 March 1905 Nad-i-ali, R. Helmund, ♀ 20 March 1905 Kuhak (Cumming); 2 ♂ 15 December 1918 Lab-i-Baring 1,600 ft. (Annandale); ♀ 25 November 1933 Logar 5,700 ft. (Maconachie); ♂ April Kabul 5,800 ft., ♀ April Doab, 2 ♂ April 1937 Doshi (Meinertzhagen).

There is no evidence to suggest that the Rook breeds in Afghanistan and it is evidently an abundant and widespread winter visitor, being recorded from most parts of the country except the higher ranges. Aitcheson says that it was first observed between De-doda and Ibrahim-abad on 28 October (1884) and Annandale was informed in Seistan that it arrived about October. In Kandahar, however, it evidently arrives much later about the middle of January (Swinhoe), January (St. John) and February (Hutton), leaving again in March (Hutton) or in the beginning of April (St. John). Meinertzhagen saw it fairly frequently in flocks round Kabul in early April and there were a few single birds round Doab and Doshi in late April and early May. He also saw a few at Danaghori in early May and a large flock, accompanied by Jackdaws, in the cultivation 20 miles north of Khanabad on 19 May. As in N.-W. India the numbers, distribution and times of arrival and departure of the Rook in Afghanistan no doubt vary according to the character of any particular winter.

Corvus cornix sharpei Oates.

Specimens collected :—♀ 21 November 1884 Khusan, Hari-Rud, ♂ 8 January 1885 Bala Murghab (Aitcheson); Sex? February 1903 Rudbar, R. Helmund (Cumming); ♀ 15 December 1918 Lab-i-Baring 1,600 ft. (Annandale); ♂ 3 November 1933 Logar 5,700 ft. (Maconachie).

So far as is known the Hooded Crow is only a winter visitor to Afghanistan (in spite of the statement in the *New Fauna* i. 32 that it breeds in Afghanistan) and it seems to be fairly generally distributed. At any rate Griffith met it at Jalalabad (21 October 1839), Maconachie at Logar (November), Aitcheson at Bala Morghab (January) and Khusan, Hari-Rud (Nov.). In Seistan it is common and Cummings says that it is found mostly in the tamarisk jungles in twos and threes, though sometimes in large flocks in the open fields. Aitcheson also found it common at the Hamun and Annandale procured his specimens at Lab-i-Baring in December and Rudbar, R. Helmund in February. Both St. John and Swinhoe record the Hooded Crow at Kandahar, the former considering it rare and the latter giving its usual locality as E. banks of the Argendab River.

As there seems to be no record later than February I presume that it leaves the country early and this would explain why Meinertzhagen did not meet with it. It has not been noted later than March 23 in the N.-W. Frontier Province of India.

[Corvus splendens zugmayeri Laubmann.

I am unable to trace the authority for including Afghanistan in the range of the House Crow in the *New Fauna*, vol. i, p. 34.]

Corvus monedula soemmeringii Fischer.

Specimens collected.—Sex? no date Kabul, 2 sex? 21 October 1839 Jalalabad (Griffith); ♂ 9 March 1879, ♂ 3 April 1879 Kandahar (St. John); ♀ ♂ 19-29 January 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♂ ♀ 23 December 1884 Bala-Morghab (Aitcheson); 2 sex? 18-21 March, 1 sex? 25 December, Maruchak, 1 sex? 15 April Karawal Khana (Yate); ♂ 19 January 1934 Logar (Maconachie); 3 ♂ May Haibak, ♀ et pull. May 1937 Kunduz (Meinertzhagen).

The Jackdaw breeds in the north of Afghanistan at Haibak and Kunduz in May according to Meinertzhagen who identifies his specimens from those localities as *soemmeringii*. Elsewhere in the country its status is not very clear and it is perhaps a winter visitor only. Griffith records it in flocks at Pushut on 23 February 1840 and procured specimens at Jalalabad on 21 October 1839 and Kabul. Maconachie met it at Logar in January. Yate collected specimens at Maruchak (March and December) and Karawal Khana (April). Aitcheson also got specimens at Bala-Morghat (December) and found it common in Badghis and on the Hari-Rud and again in some numbers at the Hamun. At Kandahar it is definitely said to be a winter visitor by Swinhoe, arriving about the middle of January and there—as in north-west India—being usually a hanger-on of the Rooks (St. John).

I have only been able to examine four of the above-cited specimens and three of these were immature. As far as they go however they agree well with Kashmir birds though I am not quite certain that *soemmeringii* is the correct name for these.

Pica pica bactriana Bonaparte.

Specimens collected.—2 sex? near Kabul, sex? Arghandi near Kabul, sex? Kandahar (Griffith); sex? 14-23 April 1873 Panjah in Wakhan (Biddulph); sex? 1 May 1879 Byan Khel (Wardlaw-Ramsay); ♂ ♀ 18 November 1879 Kandahar (St. John); ♂ ♀ December 1880, ♀ 5 February 1881, ♀ 14 February 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♀ 20 November 1884 Khusan, Hari-Rud, ♀ 5 December 1884 Koaja-Palounda, Badghis, ♀ 9 December 1884 Ab-i-Kamarra (Aitcheson); 2 sex? 3-7 February Chahar Shamba, Maimanah (Yate); ♀ Shishi River (Maynard); ♀ 1 Sept. 1933 Kabul (Maconachie); 3 ♂ May Haibak, ♀ et pull. Kunduz May 1938 (Meinertzhagen).

The Magpie is resident in Afghanistan and widely but by no means generally distributed. Its known distribution is as follows. The traveller on the road from India and Peshawar will not find it at Jalalabad or until he reaches about 10 miles from Kabul and from there it extends to the Unai Pass (and no doubt further) on the south west of Kabul and to the Ghorbund Valley on the North. Meinertzhagen also met with a single pair at the south end of the Dar-e-shikari Gorge.

It is particularly abundant south-east of Kabul from Byan Khel and the Hariab Valley (Wardlaw-Ramsay) to Ghazni (Vigne) Girishk (Hutton) and Kandahar right up to the boundary at the Khojak Pass (Swinhoe), occurring alike in gardens, groves and wooded hills.

In the tamarisk jungles of Seistan it is less numerous (Cumming).

Along the northern boundary of Afghanistan the above records from Khusan (Hari-Rud), Koaja-Palounda in Badghis, Ab-i-Kamarra and Chahar Shamba (Maimanah) show that it occurs very generally while Meinertzhagen saw it in the gardens of Haibak. Biddulph obtained it at Panjah in Wakhan.

All the Magpies which I have been able to examine from Afghanistan (10 in number) belong to the same form *bactriana*, which is found both in Northern Kashmir territories and in Baluchistan. It is possible, however, that another race remains to be recognised. Aitcheson particularly draws a distinction between his specimen from Khusan which he calls *leucoptera* and his other two birds from Koaja-Palounda and Ab-i-Kamarra which he considers true *pica*. He seems, however, to have been merely misled by the difference between adult and immature birds. But it should be remembered that Meinertzhagen said that the birds at Haibak (where from their caution and wildness he was unable to obtain specimens) seemed to be finer birds, larger, longer tailed and certainly in better plumage than the bold scavengers of the neighbourhood of Kabul. The point should be borne in mind.

Meinertzhagen found a nest with 6 eggs in the Legation garden at Kabul on 11 April and found family parties on the wing in the Ghorband valley at the end of May. At Haibak birds were sitting at the end of May.

[*Dendrocitta vagabunda* (Latham).

Afghanistan is included in the range of the Indian Tree Pie in the *New Fauna*, vol. i, p. 49 but I find no authority for this].

[*Garrulus lanceolatus* Vigors.

The Lanceolated Jay is fairly plentiful in the Ilex scrub of the Kurram Valley occurring up to 8,000 ft. and Major Magrath saw a flock of about forty individuals near Peiwar 7,000 ft. in April 1907. It must certainly therefore occur across the boundary line in Afghanistan though it has not yet been recorded there, unless the 'Jay Small sized' of Griffith's Journal seen at Bala Chugur Serai on 5 March 1840 was this bird. A specimen from Jagdulla 7 November is given in Griffith's MS. list but it is not in the British Museum Collection].

***Nucifraga caryocatactes multipunctata* Gould.**

Wardlaw-Ramsay attributes to this form three Nutcrackers which he saw one day on the Peiwar Kotal (*Ibis* 1880, p. 62). The attribution was no doubt correct as it was this form which Whitehead found in the Kurram side of the Safed-Koh, and which is common further north in Hazara.

***Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax himalayanus* (Gould)**

Specimens collected.—2 ♀ 24th Nov. 1880, ♂ ♀ 4-19 January 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); 3 ♂ 2 ♀ Abdul Rahman (F. Hutchins); ♀ 9 September 1933 Katakhak 9,750 ft., ♂ 14 Sept. 1933 Head of Saighan Nala 11,000 ft. (Maconachie); ♂ April Paghman, ♀ April Ghorband, 2 ♂ April Bamian, 2 ♂ April Akrobat, ♂ ♀ April 1937, Doab (Meinertzhagen).

The Red-billed Chough breeds in that part of the Hindu Khush which has been partially explored from the direction of Kabul. Here, according to Meinertzhagen it is nowhere abundant, but always to be found singly or in pairs, where the country is suitable, between 12,000 ft. and 3,000 ft. It is interesting to recall the fact that Griffith found it very abundant in Sept. 1839 and August 1840 at Bamian where Meinertzhagen met with a flock of 40 birds nearly a century later on 25 April 1937. The latter met parents with full-fledged young on a cliff face at 8,300 ft. in the Ghorband Valley on 24 May.

From this area doubtless come the large flocks which appear in winter on the plateau of Southern Afghanistan about Kandahar (Swinhoe, St. John). Hutton says that they arrive in November and leave about March and he adds that at Girishk in the Helmund they arrive in hundreds about sunset to settle amongst the swampy beds of the river, where one may presume them to roost.

***Pyrrhocorax graculus forsythi* Stoliczka.**

Specimens collected.—2 ♂ 3 ♀ Melkarez (Hutchins); ♂ 15th Sept. 1933 Khalachan 9000 ft. (Maconachie).

In addition to the above records it will be remembered that Whitehead found the Alpine Chough fairly well distributed in summer along the upper slopes of the Safed Koh above tree-limit.

The wing of Maconachie's specimen—which is the only one I have seen—is in moult and cannot therefore be measured but the other measurements, viz. bill from skull 39, tail 171, tarsus 42.5 mm., suggest that it should be attributed to the large Himalayan race.

***Parus major zlaratensis* Whistler.**

Specimens collected.—♂ 16 March, ♂ 30 March 1879 Kandahar (St. John); ♀ 9 January 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe).

According to St. John and Swinhoe the Grey Tit is common and resident about Kandahar and their specimens in the British Museum belong to this form. Koelz also attributes to it his specimens from Kandahar and also from Herat.

***Parus major bokharensis* Lichtenstein.**

Specimens collected.—2 ♂ 6 December 1884 between Palounda and Karrez-darra (Aitcheson); 5 ♂ 2 ♀ 12-13 May 1937 Haibak 3,000 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Meinertzhagen only met with the Grey Tit in the orchards and gardens of Haibak where it was common and breeding. I have not been able to examine Aitcheson's two specimens but they presumably belong to the same form.

In 1937 Koelz collected a series of Grey Tits at Balkh on September 18-19 and November 28-30 and a specimen at Tashkurghan on 4 Sept. One would have expected these to belong to the same form, *bokharensis* but Koelz has named

them as a new sub-species *Parus m. meinertzhageni* (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington vol. lii (June 5, 1939) p. 61).

[Parus major intermedius Zarudny.

Afghanistan is included in the range of this tit in the *New Fauna* (vol. i, p 76). I can however find no warrant for this.]

Parus major caschmirensis Hartert.

Specimens collected.—2 sex? Afghanistan (Griffith); ♂ 30 April 1879 Byan Khel (Wardlaw-Ramsay).

Wardlaw-Ramsay found the Grey Tit very common and breeding in May and June in the Hariab Valley 7,000-8,000 ft. about Byan Khel. He saw a nest with young on 1st May. The single specimen from there in the British Museum appears to belong to this race. Griffith notes in his Journal that tits were seen at Bharowl on 7th March and at Bala Chuquar Serai on 5 March 1840. His two specimens in the British Museum—to which perhaps these records apply—are poor in condition but they also seem to belong to this race.

Koelz collected 6 tits at Jalalabad in December, 2 at Daulatshah and two at Paitak in June 1937. To these also he gave a new name *Parus major declorans* (*loc. cit.*). For geographical reasons one would expect these and the Byan Khel birds to belong to the same form. It is clearly desirable that the Grey Tits of Afghanistan should be studied critically as soon as more material is available.

[Parus palustris korejewi Zarud. and Harms.

In the *New Fauna* (vol. i, p. 82) this Marsh Tit is said to occur in Afghanistan but I can trace no record to that effect].

Lophophanes melanolophus (Vigors).

Specimens collected.—♂, sex?, 22 April, ♂ 5 May, ♂ 16 May 1879 Byan Khel (Wardlaw-Ramsay).

The Crested Black-Tit is only known from the eastern border of Afghanistan where Blanchard obtained it in the Gardez Forest in May 1935 and where Wardlaw-Ramsay found it common in the Hariab Valley at 7,000-8,000 ft. It was building in the pine woods about Byan Khel in May and June. Whitehead says it is very common on the Safed Koh from 6,500 ft. to tree-limit.

Lophophanes rufonuchalis rufonuchalis (Blyth).

Specimen collected.—sex? Kabul (Griffith).

The Simla Black Tit, like the last species, is only known from the eastern border of Afghanistan. Blanchard collected specimens in May 1935 in the Gardez Forest and these were named *Parus rufonuchalis blanchardi* by Meinertzhagen (*Bull. B.O.C. lviii* (1938) p. 95) but the form does not appear to me to be separable. Wardlaw-Ramsay found it common in the Hariab Valley and breeding about Byan Khel 7,000 ft. in May. He observed it up to 10,000 ft. on the Safed Koh.

Ægithaliscus leucogenys (Horsfield and Moore).

Specimens collected.—2 sex? Afghanistan (Griffith).

Griffith appears to be the only observer who has met with the White-cheeked Tit in Afghanistan. He records it at Bharowal above Bala Chaquar Serai at 4,000 ft. where it was in pairs in the woods in March and April. This is the type-locality. Whitehead found it breeding freely on the Peiwar spur from 6,000 ft. to 8,000 ft. in March, April and May.

Remiz coronatus (Severtzow).

Specimens collected.—3 ♂ 19 April, ♂ 23 April 1885 Tirphul (Aitcheson).

These specimens provide the only records of the Penduline Tit for Afghanistan but as the species is a fairly regular winter visitor to N.-W. India from Peshawar to Sind it is probably not uncommon on passage in Afghanistan.

Sitta caesia cashmirensis Brooks.

Specimens collected.—2 ♀ Otipore (Griffith), ♂ 22 April 1879 Byan Khel (Wardlaw-Ramsay).

This Nuthatch—which he first recorded as *Sitta cinnamoventris* while Griffith labelled his specimens *S. castaneoventris*—was found by Wardlaw-Ramsay to be common at Byan Khel 7,000 ft. and on the Peiwar Kotal where it was breeding in May. All the young had flown by the middle of June. Whitehead

also recorded it as common on the Safed Koh. Griffith appears to have obtained his specimens about 10-14 April 1840 to judge by his Journal.

Wardlaw-Ramsay labelled his specimen with the manuscript name *Sitta hariabica* (which does not however appear to have been published) and though they exhibit no colour differences, this specimen and two collected by Venning over the Afghan boundary in Zhob have certainly stronger and longer beaks than true *cashmirensis*. Further specimens are required to verify this supposed racial difference.

***Sitta leucopsis leucopsis* Gould.**

Specimens collected.—♂ 21 May 1879 Byan Khel, sex? 20 June, Juv. 21 June 1879 Peiwar Kotal (Wardlaw-Ramsay).

Wardlaw-Ramsay found the White-cheeked Nuthatch rather common on the Peiwar spur of the Safed Koh from 7,000 ft. (the lowest limit of pine growth) upwards. He saw an occupied nest on 21 May and shot a newly fledged bird on 21 June near the Peiwar Kotal. Whitehead records it as the common Nuthatch of the Safed Koh.

It also occurs in the Gardez Forest where Blanchard met it in May-June 1935.

***Sitta neumayer tephronota* Sharpe.**

Specimens collected.—1 sex? Kandahar (Griffith); ♂ ♀ 18 April 1881 Kandahar; ♂ 5 December 1884 between Kushk and Palounda, ♂ ♂ ♀ 6 December 1884 between Palounda and Karezdaria, ♂ ♂ 3 May 1885 Shore-Kaltegai (Aitcheson); 2 sex? 18 May Darband-i-Kil Rekhta, Murghab (Yate); sex? 13 July Sufed Sir 7,500 ft., ♀ 17 September Kamard 5,600 ft., sex? 16 Sept. 1933 Kotal Kabuchi 8,500 ft. (Maconachie); ♂ ♀ 9 April Paghman 8,000 ft., ♂ ♀ 15 April Ghorband 5,000 ft., 2 ♂ 22-24 April Bamian 8,500 ft., ♂ ♀ 26 April 1939 Akrobat 9,000 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

The Rock Nuthatch is very generally distributed as a resident bird in Central and Southern Afghanistan, so much of the country being suited to its needs. In the south it is particularly common about Kandahar, occurring in the neighbouring hills and the rocks behind the old city (Hutton, St. John, Swinhoe). St. John found a nest in a hole in the wall of a small mausoleum by the River Arghandab in April.

Griffith mentions it in his journal as seen at Bamian 3-6 October 1839 and at Tazin on 10 October 1839 and Maconachie and Meinertzhagen found it in the Kabul area in the places represented by the above localities. The latter has some notes on the behaviour of birds at two nests in April in the Ghorband Valley at 8,200 ft. Further west Aitcheson in collecting his specimens notes that this species is a very common and characteristic bird of the sandstone rocks of the Badghis country. I have been unable to examine any of his specimens to verify that they belong to this race.

***Sitta neumayer subcoeruleus* Meinertzhagen.**

Specimens collected.—2 ♂ 6 ♀ 15-17 May 1937 Haibak 3,000 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

In his journey northward to the valley of the Oxus Meinertzhagen noted that *S. n. tephronota* was not observed north of the Dar-e-Shikari gorge at 7,000 ft. After a gap of about a hundred miles he found Rock Nuthatches again on the bare earth cliffs near Haibak, but these birds belonged to another race *subcoeruleus*. Here it was noticed that after the young were fledged two families would unite into one huge party of 15 or 16 individuals.

***Argya caudata hutroni* (Blyth).**

Specimens collected.—♂ ♂ 18-30 Dec. 1880 Kandahar (Swinhoe), ♂ 26 April 1905 Kuhak (Cumming).

The Common Babbler is apparently confined to the South of Afghanistan and there it is a resident species. It is only recorded from Kandahar where it is a garden bird but not very common (Swinhoe: St. John) and the tamarisk jungles of the Helmud (St. John) and Seistan (Cumming) where it is said to be abundant. Kandahar is the type locality of this race.

***Hypocolius ampelinus orientalis* Koelz.**

Specimens collected.—6 specimens 21-24 October 1937 Kandahar (Koelz).

The above specimens provide the only records of the Grey Hypocolius for Afghanistan and on them Koelz based his new race *orientalis* (Proc. Biol. Soc., Washington, vol. 52 (5 June 1939), p. 64). As neither Swinhoe nor St. John

met with this bird at Kandahar I find it difficult to believe that Mr. Koelz's specimens were not on passage. The characters on which his new race is based are not impressive.

***Microscelis psaroides psaroides* (Vigors).**

Specimens collected.—2 sex? Chughur Serai (Griffith).

Griffith remarks in his diary that the Black Bulbul was first seen on the Chughur Pir on 19 March 1840. A few were seen on 20 March around a village called Pillipote, favoured for its zaitoon trees.

***Molpastes leucogenys leucotis* (Gould).**

Specimens collected.—♂ ♂ ♀ 8-18 Dec. 1880, ♂ ♀ 19th February 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); 2 ♂ 1 ♀ 1881 Kandahar (Hutchins).

Swinhoe and St. John record that the White-eared Bulbul is very common about Kandahar up to an altitude of 6,000 ft. or thereabouts. It is particularly common in the city where Swinhoe caught a half-fledged bird as early as 11 March. As Koelz obtained it at Farah and Cumming observed it just over the Afghan-Persian border at Nasratabad it probably occurs generally in Southern Afghanistan. A resident species.

Koelz separates his Farah and Kandahar specimens as *Molpastes leucotis jarahensis* (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington vol. 52 (5 June 1939) p. 64) but the Kandahar series in the British Museum agree with Indian birds.

In the *New Fauna* (vol. i, p. 390) *M. l. leucogenys* is stated to occur in Afghanistan. This however appears to be a slip for this race which is omitted.

***Molpastes leucogenys humii* Oates.**

Specimen collected.—♂ 31 May 1937 Jalalabad (Meinertzhagen).

Meinertzhagen records that this race of White-cheeked Bulbul was common and breeding at Jalalabad at the end of May.

***Certhia himalayana limes* Meinertzhagen.**

Specimens collected:—2 sex? Pushut, 2 sex? Jalalabad (Griffith); 2 sex? 19 June 1879 Peiwar Kotal (Wardlaw-Ramsay); 3 ♂ 2 ♀ Kandahar (Hutchins).

In addition to the above specimens and Griffith's statement in his *Journal* that he met a Tree-Creeper at Bharowal on 10 April 1840, the Himalayan Tree-Creeper was recorded by Wardlaw-Ramsay as common enough on the Peiwar Spur and on the adjoining slopes of the Safed Koh, where it was evidently breeding in June. This is confirmed by Whitehead who says it breeds there in a zone from 7,000 to 9,000 ft.

Koelz has named a race *C. h. cedricola* (Proc. Biol. Soc., Washington, vol. 52 (5 June 1939) p. 65) from a composite series of 4 December birds from Jalalabad and 6 June birds from Kail, Ferajghan Pass and Sirotai, one of his Jalalabad specimens being named as type. There the Tree-Creeper is evidently a winter visitor and I do not see from the description how his new race is distinguishable from Griffith's Pushut and Jalalabad specimens which are clearly *limes*.

The statement in the *New Fauna* (vol. i, 431) that *C. h. taeniura* occurs in Afghanistan is evidently merely due to confusion with this race. All the Afghan specimens examined have too short bills for the Turkestan race.

***Tichodroma muraria* (Linnaeus).**

Specimens collected:—3 sex? Jugdulluck, Jalalabad and Pashat Fort (Griffith); ♂ ♂ 18 December 1880, ♂ 22 December 1880, ♀ 24 December 1880, ♂ 30 January 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♀ 5 December 1884 between Kushk and Palounda, ♂ 26 December 1884, ♂ January 1885 Bala-Morghab (Aitcheson); ♀ 20 December 1905 Peshawaran (Cumming); ♂ 9 September 1933 Katakakh 9,750 ft., ♂ 26 November 1933, sex? 23 December 1933 Logar 5,700 ft. (Maconachie); 4 ♂ 2 ♀ 8-9 April Paghman, ♂ 22, April 1937 Bamian (Meinertzhagen).

It is quite possible that the Wall-Creeper breeds at high altitudes in the Hindu Khush as suggested by Maconachie's specimen from Katakakh 9,750 ft. in September. It certainly breeds, at any rate, on the Safed Koh where Whitehead found a family party at 15,000 ft. on 12 July. It is a common winter visitor to lower levels in Afghanistan. Griffith obtained it at Jugdulluck [12 October 1839*], Pashat [16 February 1840] and Jalalabad and Maconachie at Logar (November and December). Aitcheson procured it between Kushk and Palounda (December) and at Bala Morghab (December and January). Meinertzhagen found

it most abundant in the Paghman Valley at 8,000-8,500 ft. in early April and a few were seen in the Bamian Valley in mid-April. These birds were probably on passage.

Towards Kandahar it is a very common winter visitor (Hutton, Swinhoe) and St. John remarks that it may frequently be seen on the ramparts of the town and the sun-dried brick walls of the province generally. On more than one occasion he saw it flitting about his half-opened window like a great butterfly. At Kandahar Swinhoe last saw it on 9 February.

In South-west Afghanistan the country is less suitable and Cumming only met with it in Seistan on two occasions, at Nad Ali on 7 March 1903 and at Peshawaran on 20 December.

Troglodytes troglodytes subsp.?

Specimens collected:—3 sex? 26 January 1 February Chahar, Shamba, Maimanah (Yate); sex? 20 December 1933 Chahiltan 5,900 ft., ♀, sex? 6 January 1935 Logar 5,700 ft. (Maconachie); ♂ 8 April 1937 Paghman 7,500 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

There is a good deal of difficulty about the identification of Afghan wrens. The three specimens obtained by Yate in Maimanah are, according to Scully, rather deeply coloured birds whereas the three specimens collected by Maconachie seem paler and greyer (thereby agreeing with some Gilgit specimens in the British Museum) than true *neglectus* from Kashmir. Wrens are very variable birds and it does not do to revise their classification on a few specimens but it is quite possible that these greyish birds represent a separable race. If so it seems probable that the name available for them is *Anorthura magrathi* Whitehead, *Bull. B.O.C.*, xxi. (1908), p. 19. This name was given by Whitehead to the wren which he said was found commonly on the Safed Koh from 8,000 ft. upwards to the very summit of the range, chiefly in the juniper scrub. Unfortunately his two specimens, including the type, are juveniles and it is not possible therefore to say whether they belong to *T. t. neglectus*, as stated in the *New Fauna* (vol. i, p. 447) or whether they are of the same sub-species as these greyish Afghan birds.

Meinertzhagen's specimen from Paghman, which was the only wren he met, could not be matched with anything in the Berlin and Leningrad Museums and is paler, less red than 80 birds examined from all over Turkestan and the Pamirs. It is said to be nearer *tianschanicus* than anything else but might possibly belong to a new form.

It is quite likely of course that two forms occur in Afghanistan.

Cinclus pallasi tenuirostris Bonaparte.

Specimens collected.—Juv. 5 October Iskar, Afghan Turkestan, 2 sex? 8 October Deh Tang, Ghorband (Yate); ♀ juv. ♂ ad. 13 July 1933 Khawak Chapchi (Maconachie); 4 ♂ 2 ♀ 8-12 April Paghman 8,000 ft., 3 ♂ 3 ♀ 16-18 April Ghorband 8,300 ft., Juv. 23 May 1937 Shibar Pass 8,500 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Meinertzhagen found the Brown Dipper common on the Paghman River and in the Ghorband and subsidiary valleys. Birds were building on 12 April. It was not observed north or west of the Shibar Pass and the only other records for Afghanistan are furnished by the specimens listed above and the specimens listed by Koelz from the Kargasi Pass, Sanglech, the Minjar Pass and Paghman in June, July and August on which he bases his subspecies *C. p. kargasiensis* (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 52 (5 June 1939) p. 65).

Whitehead however states that it occurs along the larger streams of the Safed Koh up to 9,000 ft. but is scarce. He shot a strong flying young bird on 27 June.

Cinclus cinclus leucogaster Bonaparte.

Specimens collected.—2 ♂ 1 ♀ 16-17 April Ghorband 8,200 ft., ♀ 25 April Bamian 11,000 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Meinertzhagen only met the White-bellied Dipper in these two localities and in a higher zone than the Brown Dipper from 8,200 ft. to 11,000 ft., though the two species overlapped about 8,200 ft. He has an interesting note on the habits.

(To be continued.)

*These dates are taken from Griffith's journals.